

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-08

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 EB-07 AID-05

L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 OIC-02 /091 W

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P 071739Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4727

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY VALLETTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 25964

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, PORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO "INFORMATION GROUP" MEETING: DISCUS-
SION OF DRAFT DECLARATION ON MASS MEDIA
PRINCIPLE

REFS: (A) STATE 215426, (B) PARIS 24079

1. UNESCO "INFORMATION GROUP" (IG) MET, UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF ACTING US PERMREP, SEPTEMBER 3 TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND DISCUSS COMMON STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH SUBJECT DRAFT DECLARATION. IN ADDITION TO U.S., MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY: AUSTRIA, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, FRG, FINLAND, ICELAND, IRELAND, JAPAN, LUXEMBOURG, NEW ZEALAND, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, SPAIN, SWEDEN, AND UNITED KINGDOM.

2. ACTING PERMREP SUMMARIZED BRIEFLY WHAT WAS DISCUSSED AND AGREED UPON AT LAST (AUGUST 13) IG MEETING, AND ELABORATED USG VIEWS ON SUBJECT MATTER ALONG LINES OF REFTEL (A). HE URGED THAT THE MEETING SHOULD ARRIVE AT DECISION ON TWO SPECIFIC POINTS, (A) DEMARCHE (WHO AND WHEN) TO DG M'BOW ON IG POSITION IN FAVOR OF POSTPONEMENT OF SUBJECT ITEM FROM 19TH GENCONF AGENDA, AND (B) WHICH IG MEMBERS WOULD MAKE DEMARCHES TO WHICH THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES RE SOLICITING THEIR SUPPORT IN FAVOR OF POSTPONEMENT.

3. ENSUING DISCUSSION, IN WHICH AUSTRIA, FRG, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, PORTUGAL, UK, ITALY, AUSTRALIA AND NORWAY, IN ADDITION TO US, PARTICIPATED, CONFIRMED WHAT EMERGED FROM AUGUST 13 IG MEETING, I.E. THAT THE GROUP WAS IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON THE NEED TO COMMUNICATE IG POSITION RE POSTPONEMENT TO DG M'BOW. AFTER
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SOME EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON QUESTION OF SIZE OF IG "COMMITTEE", DURING WHICH SUGGESTIONS WERE MADE RANGING FROM FOUR (ITALY, PORTUGAL, FINLAND AND AUSTRALIA, AS SUGGESTED BY NORWAY) TO "NOT MORE THAN ONE OR TWO" (AS SUGGESTED BY UK), IT WAS AGREED THAT AMBASSADOR CARDUCCI, ITALIAN PERMREP, WILL PERFORM THIS MISSION DURING WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6TH WHEN DG EXPECTED TO RETURN TO PARIS.

4. WHILE AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE ON THE NEED TO MAKE DEMARCHES TO SELECTED LDC'S ON SUBJECT MATTER, IG MEMBERS WERE HESITANT TO STATE (PUBLICLY) AT THE MEETING WHICH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES THEY WILLING TO APPROACH. THEIR INCLINATION WAS TO BEGIN THIS TASK WITH SELECTIVE PARIS-BASED PERMDELS AND "SPREAD OUR MESSAGE THROUGH THEM" (FRG, UK, AUSTRALIA, PORTUGAL) RATHER THAN GOING THROUGH CAPITALS.

5. IN THIS CONNECTION, STRESS WAS MADE AGAIN (ESPECIALLY BY FRG, PORTUGAL, AND BELGIUM) ON THE NEED "TO BE POSITIVE" AND TO BE ABLE TO CONVEY TO LDC'S OUR GENUINE DESIRE TO ACCOMMODATE SOME OF THEIR LEGITIMATE INTERESTS IN THE GENERAL AREA OF COMMUNICATION AND MASS MEDIA. REFERENCES WERE MADE TO RECENT LDC'S GATHERINGS IN SAN JOSE AND COLOMBO AS INDICATIVE

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OF LDC'S CONCERNS IN THIS SUBJECT AREA.

6. HAVING BEEN INFORMED ABOUT OUR WORK ON DRAFT ALTERNATIVE TEXT (REF A, PARA. 6), QUESTIONS WERE RAISED ABOUT STATUS OF FRG TEXT WHICH WAS DISTRIBUTED FOR COMMENTS TO IG MEMBERS IN JULY. AMBASSADOR PETERSEN (FRG) RESPONDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS COMPLETING FRG ALTERNATE DRAFT TEXT AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IG WILL SOON HAVE AVAILABLE THE TWO TEXTS, US AND FRG. BELGIUM, PORTUGAL, UK AND ITALY URGED THAT THESE BE AMALGAMATED INTO A SIMPLE TEXT FOR LOBBYING EXERCISE WITH LDC'S AND FOR POSSIBLE "FLOATING" AT 19TH GENCONF.

7. WHILE AGREEING THAT FOREGOING STRATEGY SHOULD BE PURSUED, SOME IG MEMBERS (NOTABLY ITALY, AUSTRALIA AND NETHERLANDS) WERE RATHER PESSIMISTIC AS TO OUR CHANCES TO HAVE ITEM POSTPONED. SOME INQUIRED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF RAISING THE ISSUE AT THE FORTHCOMING EXBD MEETING AND SEEKING ITS SUPPORT FOR POSTPONEMENT; OTHERS THOUGHT THAT MATTER WILL HAVE TO BE DECIDED AT THE LEVEL OF "DRAFTING AND NEGOTIATING GROUP" TO BE SET UP AT THE

BEGINNING OF 19TH GENCONF. NO CLEAR ANSWERS OR ADVICE
ON THESE POINTS WERE PROVIDED BY THE MEETING.

8. THE GROUP AGREED TO AWAIT RESULTS OF AMBASSADOR
CARDUCCI'S MISSION TO DG M'BOW AND TO CONSIDER FURTHER
STEPS AT NEXT IG MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 17
UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF FINLAND.

9. PERMDEL WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE AND
SPECIFIC INFORMATION AS TO STATUS OF USG DRAFT
ALTERNATIVE TEXT, I.E. WILL IT BE AVAILABLE FOR
SEPTEMBER 17TH IG MEETING?; HAS THERE BEEN ANY CON-
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SULTATION WITH BONN RE THIS MATTER; WHAT IS USG
POSITION RE FRG TEXT?

10. UNDER "OTHER QUESTIONS", AMB. PETERSEN (FRG),
CHAIRMAN OF UNESCO ELECTORAL GROUP I, ANNOUNCED THAT
GROUP I WILL MEET SEPTEMBER 14 (10 A.M.) TO CONSIDER
(A) ELECTIONS TO EXBD; (B) COMPOSITION OF THE BUREAU
OF 19TH GENCONF; AND (C) COMPOSITION OF
"DRAFTING AND NEGOTIATING GROUP". PERMDEL WILL SUBMIT
OUR VIEWS RE THESE THREE TOPICS ASAP AND WILL ASK FOR
DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE.
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